

EPA Record of Communication

EPA Staff: Jennifer Siu, Wetlands Section

Date of Communication: January 6, 2016

Person/Company: Bart Lane, Lane Shrimp Farmers

Contact Info: 1-408-262-1040

Summary of Conversation:

Mr. Lane is the son of Tommy Lane, both whom are life-long commercial fishermen in the San Francisco Bay. Bart and his siblings fished with their father commercially in the South Bay from 1970's to 2000's. Bart states that commercial harvesting of brine shrimp from the commercial salt ponds was a large operation in the 1970's to late 1990's. **B5 Deliberative**

[REDACTED] Leslie Salt/Cargill Salt contracted directly with the fishermen to oversee brine shrimp production in the ponds and then harvest the shrimp, which occurred primarily in the summer throughout all salt ponds within the South Bay. Harvesting occurred through the use of specialized flat-bottomed skimmer boats affixed with dip nets. Once the shrimp were harvested, the catch was taken to the Leslie/Cargill Newark facility for processing. The primary recipients of the processed shrimp were Leslie Salt (formed San Francisco Fish Farms/San Francisco Bay Brand Inc.) and Metaframe (a division of Mattel) who sold the shrimp as aquarium fish food. Brine shrimp harvesting was regulated by CDFW and USFWS (Don Edwards Refuge) and those agencies keep track of the catch amounts in order to levy fish tax.

Mr. Lane also stated that there was a robust bait fish harvest from the salt ponds in the 1960's through the 1980's. The focused fish species were primarily longjaw mudsucker and topsmelt. The same modified skimmer boats were used for harvesting the fish.